Burns
Philadelphia Trip
Mr. Weisberg
cc

December 4, 1936

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Ehrlich

From: Mr. Weisberg

Subject: Philadelphia Trip

Mr. M. Herbert Syme, Assistant City Solicitor in charge of Labor Relations in Philadelphia promised me last Saturday morning that he would go through the labor files of the Philadelphia Police Department with me. My belief is that these files should be productive of much worthwhile information.

Burns - among other things on the Burns case these files of the Police Department contain: (1) statements of a Burns op. in regard to inciting violence at a union meeting, made at his trial; (2) complete information on the shooting of pickets (Maritime Strike) by a Burns op. (who carried the special police officer's badge, Los Angeles Police Department, when arrested. He should have been tried by this time); (3) a complete record of the Gulf Refining Company Strike, replete with neck slashings and the criminal records of thirty finks arrested. These files undoubtedly contain other information pertaining to your Burns investigation.

Other Detective Agencies. Philadelphia Police Department requires the registration with it of all guards, etc, used in labor disputes. These are undoubtedly arranged in the police department files by agency. I imagine there is other worthwhile information on such large Philadelphia dick agencies as the Stahl, Sailes, Ross, Addis, etc, as well as Pinkerton and R. &. & I. which, of course, we also want. In looking over the possible file on the Ross Agency you might look for a connection with the Metal Manufacturers Association of Philadelphia (Metal Trades Association) specifically in re: The S. L. Allen case on which, also, the Department should have a complete file.

Names of Operatives, Finks, etc. should be in these files, upwards of 750 in number. Philadelphia Police Department has been using the criminal registration law to arrest guards on strike jobs. Officers visit each strike job and examine guards for possible W. O. men also.

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On the record of each man who appears in the files there is an account of his anti-labor activity. If this material is not used on specific cases it should prove valuable for our Rogues Gallery.

The Department Store Strike in Philadelphia ended last week. There is undoubtedly a large file on this. Syme substantiated a story I have heard as follows:

A week ago Friday the department store heads told the editors of Philadelphia's newspapers to "lay down the law" to the Mayor. With the exception of Stern (Philadelphia Record, Camden Courier, New York Post), they appeared before the Mayor and did as instructed. The Mayor, according to my informant and Syme, told them to "go to Hell", that "he was Mayor and would run his office as he saw fit".

Mayor S. Davis Wilson, who sent Syme to testify at our preliminary hearings, should be given a letter, over the Senator's signature, thanking him for his cooperation with the Committee. It will probably facilitate matters to commend them on their work, etc. The Mayor might be persuaded to have copied by some of his or the Police Department's stenographic staff those items in the files we want.

The head of Philadelphia's Detective Labor Squad composed of about thirty men who work on only labor cases, might provide valuable assistance if he were present when you go through the files.

The American Federation of Hosiery Workers (2319 North Broad Street; telephone BAL 1800. May be reached most rapidly from Labor Board office by taking northbound subway at City Hall station to Dauphin Street. 2319 is on the same side of Broad Street, directly in front of the subway exit, in the middle of the next block.) should be contacted, particularly, John W. Edelman and David Schick. Edelman is research director of the International. I spoke to him last Saturday. He should have: (1) specific information on the activities of operatives and dick agencies in the hosiery industry generally, especially information developed since April of this year. He undoubtedly has the originals of information he offered us (see pages 160 and 166--preliminary hearings). The testimony of the hosiery crowd at our preliminary hearings was not near as complete as it should have been and Edelman should have all the information presented to us. I don't know whether or not the Philadelphia office is keeping an eye on the Berkshire Hosiery Strike but even if it is, Edelman should have much information on this bloody disturbance.

He, as well as Shick (ex-Labor Editor of the Philadelphia Record and a man of wide experience in labor and hosiery industry) should be able to provide information on Trautman and the Hosiery Examiner of Reading, Pa. This paper published primarily to fight the union and the union paper has caused much trouble. It may be that the union has a file on the Hosiery Examiner that we might find interesting. Edelman, I understand, lets this sort of thing slip. (He was supposed to provide me with the above information Tuesday.) His union is having lots of trouble, financially and otherwise, and if he realizes what we can do for him, he should find the time to go through other files, select the information we need and bring it to us. Perhaps the union has kept a file of detective agencies active in the hosiery field. This would be valuable to us, particularly on the dick agency questionnaire.

The Labor office in Philadelphia is at 1432 Bankers Securities Building. To get there, on leaving Broad Street station of the P.R.R. (if the train you take does not go all the way into Broad Street station you can always get a free shuttle train at West Philadelphia which will take you there). Walk through the City Hall, the Arcade to the Wannemaker Building, turn right and walk on Juniper Street to Sanson, where you will find The Bankers Securities Building on the Southeast corner. Turn to your left and walk to the end of the corridor on the fourteenth floor to get to the Labor Board office.